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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1945.

By R. De. VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1945.**

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1945.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year, 1945.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year, 1945	6,934
Census population, 1931	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1945	2,113
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1945	£37,650
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1945 ..	£149 10s. 6d.

Physical Characters and Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into—(1) marl (2) sandstone (3) conglomerate (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marls. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belong to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted cloth, serge, flock, bedding and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633—in 1921 it was 7,212—in 1931 it was 7,132, and in 1945 it is estimated to be 6,934.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year, 1945.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.87
Legitimate	106	53	53		
Illegitimate ..	11	7	4		
	117	60	57		
Still Births—Total ..	2				
Rate per 1,000 total (live and Still) births ..					16.80
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..					0.28
Deaths—Total ..	104				
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..					14.99
Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total ..	Nil.				
From Puerperal Sepsis ..	Nil			Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
From other Maternal causes ..	Nil			Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total	..	1
Legitimate	.. .. .	1
Illegitimate	.. .. .	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	8.54
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	.. .. .	9.43
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	.. .. .	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	21
„ „ Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.. .. .	—
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—		
Live Births per 1,000 civilian population	.. .. .	16.1
Still Births do. do.	.. .. .	0.46
Deaths (all causes) do. do.	.. .. .	11.4
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and Still) births	.. .. .	1.79
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and Still) births	.. .. .	46.0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1945.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis.....	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	—	—	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	3	9
Cancer of breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	3	8	11
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	8	12
Heart disease	9	13	22
Other disease of the circulatory system....	5	3	8
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Other respiratory disease	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease.....	1	5	6
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents.....	1	1	2
Other violent causes	2	—	2
All other causes	5	3	8
All causes—Total	47	57	104

Infant Mortality during 1945.

The death of only one Infant under the age of one year occurred during the year, at the age of four months from Lung Abscess. This produced the low rate of 8.5 per 1,000 live births and is the lowest rate ever recorded for the district.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The Rural District of Taunton is one of the contributory authorities. Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are received by the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to receive cases from May, 1938.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Council scheme for treatment. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-pox.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The inhabitants go to the Cottage Hospital in Wellington and to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital for out-patient and in-patient treatment, and to Bristol where there are the same facilities.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated in the Urban District of Wellington, or, if full, to the Institution in the Borough of Taunton.

Mental Sick.—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Cotford, in the Parish of Bishop's Lydeard.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—A Clinic is held once a week in the Borough of Taunton, at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising in the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District to which the County Council make a grant. It has 15 beds including one receiving bed, one Isolation bed, and one bed in the labour ward. The charges are £3 10s. per week where a ward is shared, and £6 6s. per week for a private ward. During 1945, 195 mothers were confined there, producing 195 babies.

All cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality are investigated under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the County Hall in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the usual Bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, sputum and faeces, etc. This service is also available without charge to medical men practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies, sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. There is one Ambulance, serving the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington; both authorities make grants towards its upkeep, each authority being represented on the Society's Committee. The Ambulance service is well organised, efficient and adequate for the areas served.

Evacuee Sick Bay.—The Sick Bay at 'Avondale' ceased to function on the 31st March, 1945, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health. It served a very useful purpose during the war, being in operation since 2nd September, 1939. Part of the premises are now used as a clinic and Public Cleansing Station for such cases as scabies, impetigo and other verminous conditions occurring in the Urban District. The remainder of the house is used to accommodate persons inadequately housed.

The following table shows the work done at the sick-bay from 1st January to 31st March, and at the Clinic from 1st April to 31st December, 1945.

SICK BAY.

IN-PATIENTS—(1st January to 31st March, 1945).

Admissions 11. Daily average of in-patients 8.3

No. of in-patient days 487.

Scabies	4	Asthma	1	D. & V. Pyrexia	1
Impetigo	4	Sub-maxillary abscess	1		

OUT-PATIENTS—(1st January to 31st March, 1945).

No. treated	73	No. of out-patient attendances	383
Scabies	8	Impetigo	11
Scabies Contacts	2	Miscellaneous (abrasions, cuts, burns, etc.)	52

CLINIC—(31st March to 31st December, 1945).

No. of cases treated	273	No. of attendances	1,256
Scabies	28	Impetiginous Scabies	1
Scabies Contacts	8	Impetigo	31
Miscellaneous (abrasions, cuts, burns and minor ailments)			203

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer. The following is a chemical analysis of the water which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity:—

Physical characters	..	..	..	Clear and Bright
Reaction	..	..	..	Slightly alkaline
Total Solids	..	..	..	33.0
Alkalinity (as CaCO_3)	..	..	..	23.75
Total hardness	..	..	..	26.0
(a) Temporary	..	..	..	20.5
(b) Permanent	..	..	..	5.5
Chlorine (in terms of Sodium Chloride)	..			2.9
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia	..			0.0006
,, ,, Albuminoid ,,	..			0.001
,, ,, Nitrates	..	..	..	0.2
,, ,, Nitrites	..	..	..	nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate				
(4 hrs. at 80 deg. F.)	..	..	..	0.02
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	1.1
Silicia (as SiO_2)	..	..	..	0.06
Sediment	..	..	..	nil

There have been no changes or extensions of the water supply during the year. The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and as regards quantity the supply is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply. The margin of daily reserve over consumption is very small and to increase this reserve a site has been acquired at Pitt Farm, on the western side of the District where it is proposed to sink a bore-hole and trial boring will shortly commence. If this proposed supply is found to be satisfactory it will be pumped to the existing water towers to augment the present supply. It is estimated that the trial boring will cost £1,044. Tenders for permanent boring and other work connected therewith have not yet been asked for.

The Augmentation Scheme of taking water from the bore at Messrs. Aplin & Barrett's Creamery continues in use and has been very helpful in maintaining a constant supply. Up to 20,000 gallons per day may be taken from this source, which has a similar chemical analysis to the main supply.

Four samples of raw water taken from Messrs. Aplin & Barrett's supply gave the following results: (2) Exeretal B.eoli 30-100 present per litre and Streptococci absent from 50 e.e. (1) Exeretal B.eoli 100-1,000 present per litre and Streptococci absent from 50 e.c. and (1) Exeretal B.coli 100-1,000 present per litre and Streptococci 30-100 present per litre. Seven samples of chlorinated water taken from consumers taps, were bacteriologically examined and all gave satisfactory results.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the temporary hardness being 20.5, permanent hardness 5.5 and total hardness 26.0 parts per 100,000.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows.

(a) Water laid direct to houses	..	..	91.79%
Population supplied	..	..	92.27%
(b) Houses supplied by means of standpipes			4.27%
Population supplied	..	..	4.26%

There are 40 wells serving 68 dwellings in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.

Sewage Disposal.—The reconstruction of the Tone Sewage Disposal Works took place between the years 1935 and 1936, and during 1939 additional sludge beds were constructed at a higher level and the sludge drying area widened to twice its former capacity. The Works consist essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which is pumped on to sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It appears to be of Statutory quality and causing no nuisance in the River. The effluent was last examined during June, 1942, and its chemical analysis, shown as under, proves that the sample contained no excessive amount of suspended solids and absorbed no excessive amount of dissolved oxygen:—

(All results in parts per 100,000)				
Number of Sample	..	..	..	S.142
Physical characters				
Liquid	..	..	..	Fairly clear
Sediment	..	..	..	Moderate
Odour	..	..	..	—
Reaction	..	..	..	—
Total Solids	..	..	..	—
Solids in suspension	..	..	..	0.7
„ „ solution	..	..	..	—
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)	..			8.6
Nitrogen as free saline Ammonia	..			0.090
„ Albuminoid Ammonia	..			0.040
„ Organic	..	..	..	—
„ Nitric from Nitrates	..			2.6
Oxygen absorbed				
4 hours at 80 deg. F.	..	..		0.3
3 min., at „	..	..		—
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed	..	..		—
After 5 days incubation 65 deg. F.	..			1.4
Putrescibility	..	..	..	—

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. Its effluent was unsatisfactory and causing a nuisance to the nearby stream into which it flowed. During the year, 1944, the existing sedimentation tank was converted into two settlement tanks, a dosing chamber was built together with a new 50 feet circular filter with revolving arms. There was also erected four sludge beds, each 23 feet by 14 feet and a pump house with a small petrol pumping unit. It is intended that these works shall deal with future development in the Pyles Thorne area. They will not be capable, without further enlargement of dealing with any large scale development on the Priory Estate.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also any rain water that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works. In addition there is a winding stream which passes through the Town, known as the Town Stream; it is subject to pollution and discharges into the Tone.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District though not all closets have flushing cisterns. There are 29 dwellings which have water closets not connected to the sewer. With the exception of 10 houses at Spypost and Bagley and 5 at Westford and 5 at Payton, the others are large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated, but from 8 dwellings at Westford slop water enters the stream in an untreated state.

64 houses are served by earth closets. These are all in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

Public Cleansing.—This is satisfactory and undertaken by the Council; premises are visited about twice a week. The Council also removes and disposes of the Trade Refuse of the Town. There are no tips for refuse. The Council purchased in 1926 a Heenan & Froude's single chamber destructor with a forced draught by a fan and run by a petrol engine.

As a war-time measure certain materials are still Salvaged by the Council and Toc H. from the refuse collected, as follows:—

	<i>By the Council.</i>		<i>By Toc H.</i>	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper	37	16	14	10
Bones	3	0	—	—
Rags	3	2	—	11
Metal—Ferrous	8	0	—	—
„ —Non-ferrous ..	—	—	—	—
Kitchen Waste	22	0	—	—
Rubber	1	0	—	—

Toc H. ceased collecting in October when it was taken over by a commercial firm and records are available.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—One private house was found to be infested with bed-bugs and this was satisfactorily treated by spraying with 'Zaldecide.' No Council Houses were found to be infested during the year.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites.—There are no recognised camping sites in the District and it has not been necessary to issue licences under Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.—There have been no nuisances arising from industrial premises and consequently no action has been taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, neither have any complaints been received.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply.

The large house known as 'The Lawns' and Trinity Church ceased to be used as schools when the evacuee children returned home. The former is being converted privately into 5 flats. The Council have under consideration leasing and adapting Trinity Church for use as a public hall which is badly needed in the town.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public and is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times it becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Four samples of the water were taken of which one was unsatisfactory due to an excessive number of B.coli. The explanation for this was inefficient chlorination. The great drawback to privately owned swimming pools is that proprietors are over inclined to study economy by conserving the use of sterilising agents and thereby making supervision more difficult.

The Local Authority has definite powers of control over privately owned swimming baths and pools, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector Reports as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	89
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	24
Bakehouses	16
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	17

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	14
Statutory Notices	0

Results of Notices served:—

Total Notices complied with	37
Notices standing over from 1944	4

Conditions remedied:—

Defective Drainage	21
Defective Sanitary Fittings	27
Dampness abated	9
Provision of New Water Closets	15
Miscellaneous	32

Disinfections were for the following conditions:—

Tuberculosis	6	Vermin	1	Scarlet Fever	5
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Shop Acts, 1912—1938.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 37 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows:—

Repair of Sanitary Conveniences	6
Limewashing	8
Abatement of Nuisances	5
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences	3
Provision of additional Lighting and Ventilation	2

It was not found necessary to take action in relation to additional heating arrangements and cloakroom facilities.

Bakehouses.—There are four bakehouses in the District and 16 inspections were made of them. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply.

Meat Supply.—Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter-houses, and the meat, after inspection, is distributed over a very large area. The slaughter-houses serving this District are situated in the Borough of Taunton and in the Taunton Rural District, where the Sanitary Inspectors of those Districts carry out inspection before distribution and it is satisfactory to note that the percentage of unfit meat that escapes their vigilance is infinitesimal.

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners:—

103 Tins of Meat	364 lbs. of Dried Fruit
150 Tins of Fish	2 cwts. of Potatoes
99 Tins of Condensed Milk	1033 lbs. of Wet Fish
74 Tins of Fruit, Vegetable, Jam, Soup, etc.	321 lbs. Sugar
213 lbs. of Butchers' Meat	92 lbs. of Cheese
51 lbs. of Bacon	310 Packets Pudding Mixture
	168 Fish Cakes
Up to 1939, there were seven Registered and two Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.	

Milk Supply.—The inspection of Farms and Dairies and the taking of Samples of Milk under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, were continued during the year.

Of the 16 farms in the District 8 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 8 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available. One of the above 8 farms was connected to the water mains during the year.

Structural improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been continued to be made. One cowshed and dairy has been completely reconstructed and the producer was granted a licence to produce accredited milk. Another producer who was previously producing accredited milk has been granted a licence to produce T.T. Milk. Improvements such as new concrete floors, drainage, additional light and ventilation have been made without undue difficulty and it has not been necessary to serve notices to enforce this work.

Generally speaking the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

The number of samples of milk taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist was 26. The analytical results are shown in the following table:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>Per cent. unsatis- factory</i>
Pasteurised	12	2	10	16.6
Accredited	8	—	8	—
Examined for tubercle bacilli	6	—	6	—

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register 16

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 9

(b) Distributors who are also producers 5

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order the following licences are in force in the District as issued by the County Council and this Council.

(a) County Council: T.T. Producers 1

Accredited Producers 2

(b) Wellington U.D.C.: To use the designation
“Pasteurised” 2

HOUSING.

The one serious case of overcrowding caused by a man whilst in H.M. Forces marrying a widow with three children and returning to his parent's house was satisfactorily abated by his being re-housed in a requisitioned cottage.

With the men and women returning from H.M. Forces and many young married couples with children living with relatives, overcrowding is on the increase. There are insufficient houses to meet the demand and this cannot be rectified until the post-war programme is completed. As the Council's existing flats become vacant, steps are taken to move small units from three bedroom houses into a flat and the house re-let to a family.

Full use has been made to relieve overcrowding by the use of 28 requisitioned cottages and 2 large houses in which a total of 38 families is accommodated.

At the close of the year four flats were nearing completion for Messrs. Fox Bros. & Co., Ltd., who are adapting part of their dining rooms for housing accommodation.

Under the post-war building programme the following sites have been or will be acquired by the Council:—

Longforth Site.—14.44 acres. Tenders for works of road and sewer construction have been approved.

Doctor's Meadow Site, Rockwell Green.—3.28 acres. Works of road, sewer and water mains are in progress and tenders for the erection of 24 permanent houses and 12 flats have been accepted and are awaiting approval by the Ministry. The contracts accepted were 10 houses £12,165; 12 flats, £7,187 10s. 6d.; 14 houses, £17,430; Total, £37,473 10s. 6d.

Church Green Site.—3.1 acres. Eight flats in course of erection at an average cost of £693 15s. each, including roads and paths. Sewers and water supply are available on the site.

Tone Hill Site.—1.27 acres. Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of this site and the Ministry of Health has given consent.

Oaken Ground Site, Rockwell Green.—6.21 acres. Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of this site and the formal consent of the Ministry of Health is awaited.

The Priory Site.—16 acres (approx.). The Ministry of Town and Country Planning has approved this site and negotiations are being opened for its acquisition.

Site between "Wardleworth" and Crosslands Terrace, Tonedale.—3.5 acres. The Ministry of Town and Country Planning has given their approval to the ultimate utilisation of this site for housing purposes.

These sites allow for a housing programme of approximately 400 houses and flats which it is hoped to carry out as follows:—

First Year	70	Second Year	100	Third Year	80
Fourth year	80	Fifth year	70		

16 houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, continue to be occupied by temporary licences issued to the owners for re-occupation. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Section 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the acute housing shortage and is covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc. necessary

to bring them into such condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used, as a temporary war-time measure, for housing purposes without detriment to health.

Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the re-occupation of a house and the rent to be charged, but the licence is not operative for more than six months without renewal.

The following table shows the number and position of the houses which have been erected by the Council under the Various Acts:—

HOUSING (ASSISTED SCHEME) ACT, 1919.

<i>Address</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>
1—14 Longforth Road (Parlour Type)	14
HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1924.	
15—37 Longforth Road (Parlour Type)	18
1—42 Church Fields (Parlour Type)	42
14—21 Victoria Street (Parlour Type)	8
1—32 Alexandra Road (Non Parlour Type)	32
1—24 Olands Road (Non Parlour Type)	24
21—36 Lower Foxmoor Road (Parlour Type)	16
1—16 Pope's Lane (Non Parlour Type)	16
26—39 Crosslands (Non Parlour Type)	14

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1—52 Brendon Road (Non Parlour Type)	52
1—18 } Quantock Road (Non Parlour Type)	34
27—42 } Quantock Road (Flats)	12
1—24 } Greenway Road (Non Parlour Type)	28
26—32 } Greenway Road (Flats)	8
25—39	
	<hr/> 318 <hr/>

Of the above total of 318 houses and flats, 114 houses and 20 flats were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The following is the number of persons who were officially billeted in the District under the Government Evacuation Scheme at 31st December, 1945:—

Unaccompanied children	3
Mothers	0
Accompanied children	0
Teachers	0
Helpers	0
Adults	3
Communal Billets, Cottages, etc.	127
Total	<hr/> 133 <hr/>

This total of 133 persons may be compared with 1,548 persons in 1940, 803 persons in 1941, 259 persons in 1942, 287 persons in 1943, and 557 persons in 1944.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the notifications received for various notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis), their age groups and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales, and the number admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

DISEASES	No. of Notifications.	AGE GROUPS							No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0 —	1 —	3 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	25 and over	
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	5	6	1	1	1	8
Measles	17	—	3	5	9	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	16	1	4	2	9	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	13	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births.

DISEASES	NO. OF NOTIFICATIONS	RATES FOR	
		Wellington U.D.	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	14	2.01	1.89
Measles	17	2.45	11.67
Whooping Cough	16	2.30	1.64
Dysentery	13	—	—
Erysipelas	2	0.28	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.14	9.93

The District is one of the Constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board. The Annual Report of the work done at Taunton Isolation Hospital during 1945 will be found at the end of this report.

Diphtheria Prophylaxia. For the fourth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. Time will show whether this may be attributed entirely or partly to Immunisation against Diphtheria. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be

maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance. After 6 years of mass immunisation of the children of this country, approximately 55 per cent. have been immunised. The aim is to immunise at least 75 per cent. The circulars point out that there are some 600,000 children being added to the country's susceptible population every year and it is suggested that it is to the age group one and two that much greater attention should be directed in 1946. It is estimated that the rate of dying from Diphtheria is approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised.

The following figures show how immunisation is progressing in this District from the commencement of the Scheme:—

<i>year</i>	<i>Pre-school children age group 0-5</i>	<i>School children age group 5-15</i>
1941	239	609
1942	68	82
1943	40	50
1944	91	55
1945	86	24

Based on 1945 mid-year populations, it is estimated that there are 492 children under 5 years and 986 between 5 and 15 years in Wellington Urban District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>NEW CASES.</i>				<i>DEATHS.</i>			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	4	2	—	1	2	—	1

At the end of the year there were 34 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating to this District.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. This power is exercised by the County Council. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, must be notified by the notifying practitioner direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority (which in this case is the County Council) under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937. Prompt and early treatment is thus obtained and most of the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST.
DECEMBER, 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I append a Tabulated Statement of the number of admissions, discharges and deaths applicable to the Board's Hospital during the year, 1945.

The admissions were slightly lower, 260 against 288 for 1944 but this factor made no appreciable difference in overcoming difficulties arising out of the continuing shortage of Nurses and Domestic Staff. However, wise planning by the Matron and goodwill on the part of her Staffs, have prevented any lowering of attention to the patients.

There were 8 deaths during the year against 6 during 1944. The deaths were due to:—Tuberculous Meningitis, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Bronchopneumonia due to Whooping Cough, 2; Dysentery, 2 (one suffering from Senility and the other an infant); Gastro-enteritis, 1 (a marasmic infant); and Marasmus, 1, due to prematurity.

Seventeen operations were performed in the Theatre against 15 during 1944. They were:—Caesarian Section and Hysterectomy, 1; Amputation of Cervix, 1 (a patient admitted for the purpose from Chard Sanatorium); Appendicectomy, 2 (complicated with measles and Chicken-pox respectively); Curettage of Uterus, 2; Extirpation of abdominal Cyst, 1 (a patient from Taunton Sanatorium). These seven operations were performed by the Board's Surgeon, Mr. Nicholson Lailey. In addition, Tonsillectomy was carried out on 10 patients by the Board's Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Mr. Graeme Allan.

The Theatre was also in use for the performance of 192 Artificial Pneumothorax Refills in connection with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis against 62 during 1944.

There were 37 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 21 were discharged and 20 died. The total patient days for these cases were 7,363 against 7,239 for 1944.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

February, 1946.

Medical Superintendent.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Taunton Borough	92	6	10	84	4	2339	28	6	7	-	15	10	1	2	2	-	-	5	1	-	3	1	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3
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